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Message Text

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ACTION AID-59

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E. O. 11652: N/A
FOR ASIA/NE VINCE BROWN FROM SLIGH
SUBJECT: GOA'S PROGRAM FOR FUNCTIONAL LITERACY AND ADULT
EDUCATION (FLAE)

SUMMARY

AFGHANISTAN'S FUNCTIONAL LITERACY ADULT EDUCATION (FLAE) PROGRAM VICE PRESIDENT MONTAZIR DISCUSSED PROPOSED REQUEST WITH US FOR $1 MILLION ASSISTANCE. SUBSEQUENT DISCUSSION WITH UN AND UNESCO ADDED TO OUR LAYMAN'S KNOWLEDGE OF AFGHAN EFFORTS AND BROUGHT FORTH SUGGESTION THAT PERHAPS U.S. SHOULD BECOME ASSOCIATED WITH POST LITERACY PROGRAM FOR WHICH NO PLANNING EFFORT YET BEGUN BY AFGHANS OR OTHER DONOR. SINCE EXPERTISE NOT PRESENT HERE FOR ASSESSMENT, PLANNING OR EVALUATION, USAID SEEKS AID/W HELP WITH ONE OR TWO SHORT-TERM EXPERTS BEGINNING MID-AUGUST FOR ABOUT ONE MONTH. ALSO SEEK AID/W COMMENT ON PROPOSAL FOR U.S. PARTICIPATION IN MULTI-DONOR EFFORT AS DESERIBED THIS CABLE.
ACTION REQUESTED. DISCUSS SUBJECT WITH BUREAU AND ADVISE DEGREE ENCOURAGEMENT WE MAY GIVE GOA THAT DIALOGUE CAN CONTINUE WITH WASHINGTON INPUT NEXT MONTH.

1. FOLLOWING MEETING OF MAY 18, 1974 ATTENDED BY MINISTER OF EDUCATION PAZHWAK AND DIRECTOR BROWN, VICE PRESIDENT FATEH MOHAMMED MONTAZIR OF GOA'S FUNCTIONAL LITERACY AND ADULT EDUCATION DIRECTORATE (FLAE) PREPARED A REQUEST FOR USAID ASSISTANCE. WE UNDERSTAND DRAFT VERSION WAS READ BY MINISTER OF PLANNING KHURRAM
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TO CABINET WHICH GAVE INSTRUCTIONS THAT DRAFT BE DISCUSSED WITH USAID

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PRIOR TO OFFICIAL TRANSMISSION.

2. ON SATURDAY JUNE 29 MONTAZIR VISITED USAID AND DISCUSSED PROPOSITION. CONSIDERABLE TIME PASSED DURING 2-1/2 HOUR DISCUSSION BEFORE MONTAZIR RELAXED SUFFICIENTLY TO BEGIN TO EXPLAIN OVERALL APPROACH TO WHICH USAID IS TO BE ASKED TO CONTRIBUTE. WHILE NINE-PAGED, DOUBLE-SPACED ENGLISH TRANSLATION OF PROPOSED LETTER FROM FLAE IS SUPPOSED TO EXPLAIN USAID'S ROLE IN ASSISTING QUOTE 4 OUT OF 14 FUNCTIONALP LITERACY PROJECTS UNQUOTE, IN REALITY IT DEVOTES MOST SPACE TO DESCRIBING NEED FOR ADULT EDUCATION AND FUNCTIONAL LITERACY PROGRAM THROUGHOUT COUNTRY AND DOES NOT IDENTIFY SPECIFIC DONOR ROLES. QUOTE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE EXPECTED FROM THE USAID UNQUOTE IS LISTED AS FOLLOWS:

(A) EXPENDABLE AND NON-EXPENDABLE EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES FOR FIELD OPERATIONS $200,000.

(B) DEVELOPMENT (APPARENTLY MEANING CONSTRUCTING AND EQUIPPING) NATIONAL TRAINING CENTER $400,000.

(C) MISCELLANEOUS (TRANSLATING, PUBLISHING, DISTRIBUTING EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS INCLUDING POST LITERACY) $200,000.

(D) FELLOWSHIPS, 400 MAN/MONTHS $200,000.

USESCO IS TO BE QUOTE EXECUTING UNQUOTE AGENCY (UNESCO HAS CONDUCTED PILOT STUDY IN TWO LOCATIONS OVER PAST 2-3 YEARS). MONTAZIR STATED THAT UN HAD AGREED TO FINANCE FOUR ADDITIONAL QUOTE PROJECTS UNQUOTE AS SECOND PHASE OF LITERACY PROGRAM. USAID WOULD PROVIDE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR THIRD PHASE.

3. BY END OF SECOND HOUR OF DISCUSSION MONTAZIR HAD BEGUN TO ACCEPT QUESTIONS AND IDEAS WHICH WE PUT FORTH TO HIM--NAMELY:

(A) IS THIS AN AFGHAN PLAN OR A UNESCO PLAN?

(B) DO YOU WANT TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE OR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR MATERIALS?

(C) ARE YOU LOCKED INTO SCHEME PUT FORTH BY UNESCO OR ARE YOU WILLING TO EXPERIMENT WITH OTHER TECHNIQUES?

(D) WHERE IS YOUR PLAN UPON WHICH YOUR FINANCIAL REQUESTIS BASED ?

THREE UNESCO TECHNICIANS CURRENTLY IN COUNTRY WHICH YOU DESIRE FROM THE U.S. ?
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4. PROPOSAL TO USE UNESCO AS THE EXECUTING AGENCY LED TO OUR RAISING OTHER POINTS:

(A) U.S. PROVIDES AT LEAST 25 PERCENT OF UNESCO'S AND UN'S BUDGETS AND THEREFORE WOULD IT BE APPROPRIATE FOR BILATERAL AID TO BE USED AS SUPPLEMENT?

(B) THIS PROPOSAL APPEARS TO BE COMMODITY ARRANGEMENT AND AS SUCH PERHAPS SHOULD BE LOAN-FINANCED RATHER THAN GRANT-FINANCED.

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(C) U.S. CONTRIBUTION TO MULTI-DONOR PROGRAM HEADED BY UNESCO WOULD OF COURSE REQUIRE OUR AGREEMENT TO PHILOSOPHY OF APPROACH.
(D) WE AND U.S. CONGRESS WOULD WANT TO BE ABLE TO IDENTIFY RESULTS OF U.S. INPUT.

5. MONTAZIR (WHOSE ENGLISH IS EXCELLENT) BEGAN TO EXPRESS AN UNDER-STANDING OF QUESTIONS AND CONCEPTS SO POSED. WE URGED HIM NOT TO SUBMIT HIS PROPOSAL AS IT IS NOW WRITTEN BUT TO REPORT TO HIS MINISTER

THAT GOOD DISCUSSION (WHICH IS TRUE) WAS HELD. MONTAZPR AGREED THAT FURTHER DIALOGUE HERE IN KABUL WAS ESSENTIAL AND THAT HE WOULD MOST WILLINGLY DISCUSS PROJECT DESIGN WITH AID PERSONS AS SOON AS WE ARE READY TO DO SO.

6. ON TUESDAY JULY 2 WE MET WITH UN RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE BORTHWICK AND TWO UNESCO FUNCTIONAL LITERACY SPECIALISTS: MIR MOZAM HUSAIN OF PARIS UNESCO OFFICE AND S. M. SARAF, UNESCO CHIEF TECHNICAL ADVISOR HERE IN AFGHANISTAN.

7. WE REPORTED ESSENCE OF DISCUSSION WITH MONTAZIR; HUSAIN FILLED US IN ON MORE OF BACKGROUND OF UNESCO FUNCTIONAL LITERACY EFFORTS OVER PAST YEAR IN AFGHANISTAN. UNESCO REPRESENTATIVES AND BORTHWICK URGED COORDINATION OF EFFORTS TO WHICH WE AGREED WHOLEHEARTEDLY. HUSAIN INFORMED US THAT INEXPENSIVE METHODOLOGY FOR FUNCTIONAL LITERACY

AND ADULT EDUCATION NOW IS AVAILABLE; IMPLEMENTATION, HOWEVER, MUST BE PHASED CAREFULLY AND ADEQUATE RESOURCES MUST BE AVAILABLE. BORTHWICK

INFORMED US THAT PERHAPS MONTAZIR MISUNDERSTOOD SLIGHTLY WHEN HE SAID THAT UN HAD AGREED TO FINANCE QUOTE 4 OUT OF 14 PROJECTS UNQU OTE.
WE UNDERSTOOD FROM BORTHWICK THAT MORE DISCUSSION AND REVIEW IS SCHEDULED BEFORE UNDP WILL COMMIT FUNDS ALTHOUGH IT IS IN PROCESS
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REPORTING FAVORABLY TO NEW YORK.

8. BORTHWICK STRESSED NEED FOR AFGHANS TO DEVELOP THEIR OWN PLAN SO THAT COORDINATED INPUTS FROM VARIOUS DONORS AS WELL AS AFGHAN ORGANIZATIONS COULD OCCUR. THIS IS SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT FROM POSITION ANNOUNCED TO US BY MONTAZIR THAT THERE WOULD BE A QUOTE UNESCO SCHEME UNQUOTE TO BE FOLLOWED BY GOA, UN AND UNESCO. DURING DISCUSSION HUSAIN AND SARAF NOTED THAT AFGHANS AS YET HAD NOT CON-CERNED THEMSELVES WITH PROGRAM DESIGNED TO MAINTAIN LITERACY SKILLS ONCE LEARNED.

9. SUGGESTION EVOLVED THAT IT MIGHT BE APPROPRIATE FOR USAID TO BECOME PRINCIPAL ASSISTOR TO AFGHANS IN DEVELOPING, TESTING, AND IMPLEMENTING POST LITERACY PROGRAM. OBVIOUSLY THIS WOULD BE DONE IN CLOSE COORDINATION WITH BASIC LITERACY TRAINING PROGRAM. MOST

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IMPORTANTLY, THERE ARE NO PLANS ON PART OF ANY UN ACTIVITY TO ASSIST
IN THIS AREA. IT WOULD BE AT LEAST TWO YEARS BEFORE FOLLOW-ON PROGRAM
IS NEEDED IN THE AFGHAN PROJECTS AND THAT IS AN APPROPRIATE AMOUNT OF
TIME TO DEVELOP A PROJECT AND BEGIN IMPLEMENTATION.

10. MONTAZIR, BORTHWICK, SARAF AND HUSAIN ENDORSED USAID'S PLAN
TO SEEK ASSISTANCE FROM AID/W IN THE FORM OF ONE OR MORE SHORT-TERM
SPECIALISTS TO PARTICIPATE IN FURTHER DISCUSSIONS WITH GOA/UNDP/
UNESCO. HUSAIN URGED THAT ANY ONE RESPONDING TO THIS REQUEST SHOULD
VISIT HIM IN PARIS EN ROUTE AFGHANISTAN AS HE IS QUITE FAMILIAR WITH
LOCAL SITUATION. SARAF WILL RETURN TO KABUL FROM LEAVE SEPTEMBER ONE.

11. TO REVEIW THE RESULTS OF THESE TWO MEETINGS, WE NOTE:
(A) DISCUSSION WITH MONTAZIR WAS A GOOD EXAMPLE OF THE TRIALS
AND TRIBULATIONS INHERENT IN COLABORATIVE STYLE OF PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

(B) WE FEEL THAT WITH INTEREST SHOWN BY UN RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE

WE HAVE GOOD OPPORTUNITY OF ACHIEVING NOT ONLY COOPERATION BUT COORDINA

TION OF OUR EFFORTS WITH VARIOUS UN AGENCIES AND THAT WE CAN CONSULT
WITH THEMUSEFULLY IN EARLY STAGE OF DEVELOPMENT ANY U.S. PROJECT.
(C) TO CONTINUE DISCUSSIONS WITH MONTAZIR, WE NEED AID/W'S
PRELIMINARY VIEW ON PARTICIPATION IN TIGHTLY-COORDINATED MULTI-DONOR
ACTIVITY WHEREIN U.S. MAY NOT BE AN IDENTIFIABLE SEGMENT OF TOTAL BUT
WOULD BECOME A CONTRIBUTOR OF, FOR EXAMPLE, COMMODITY SUPPORT TO
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AN AFGHAN ACTIVITY EXECUTED BY NON-U.S. DONOR.
(D) SINCE WE DO NOT HAVE EXPERTISE IN MISSION, WOULD APPRECIATE
AID/W ASSISTANCE PROVIDING ONE OR TWO CONSULTANTSARRIVE MID-AUGUST
FOR PERHAPS ONE MONTH PARTICIPATION WITH LANZA IN EXAMINATION GOA
PLANS, PROSPECTS FOR EFFECTIVE MULTI-DONOR EFFORT AND APPROPRIATE U.S.

ROLE IF ANY IN SUCH EFFORT.
(E) SUGGESTION THAT WE CONCERN OURSELVES WITH POST LITERACY
PROGRAM FOR AFGHANISTAN SEEMS TO OPEN OPPORTUNITY FOR USAID
IDENTIFIABLE ACTIVITY, ONE THAT HAS FULL OPPORTUNITY FOR EXPERIMENTAT
ION
AND THUS IMPROVEMENT OF ART. ANOTHER DISTINCT ENTITY WOULD BE
NATIONAL TRAINING CENTER BUT WE NOTE THAT UNDP/UNESCO NOT AT THIS
POINT CONVINCED THIS IS NECESSARY ELEMENT IN PROGRAM.
DECONTROL JULY 9, 1975
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